Capote Denounces Kennedy Article Attributed to Him

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Truman Capote denounced yesterday as a "tasteless manifest fabrication" an article attributed to him suggesting that President Kennedy was still alive though totally disabled.

The account, entitled "Dead or Alive," is believed to have originated on a Midwestern college campus some months ago. It was recently read over several radio stations by disc jockeys in the New York and Chicago areas, prompting more than 2,000 persons to write Mr. Capote demanding an explanation."

"The incredible thing is the number of people who believe it," Mr. Capote said during an interview at the offices of his publisher, Random House. "The whole thing is so grotesque, yet it's a growing, mushrooming thing and now I'm getting about 30 to 35 letters a day from people who are either incensed, thinking that I wrote this, or who believe this tasteless manifest fabrication might actually be true."

In the presence of his lawyer, Alan U. Schwartz, Mr. Capote said that he had filed a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission last week against two Chicago broadcasting stations, WCFL and WCN, for airing the faked article and then refusing to carry his rebuttal. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has also been called into the case.

At first, Mr. Capote said, he had hesitated to make any public comment about "this morbid hoax" for fear of publicizing it even further. But when the article continued to circulate, he said, he decided to call The New York Times and explain the facts in the hope of stemming the flow of letters.

"I first heard about it some two months ago from Irv Kupcinet, the Chicago Sun-Times columnist, who telephoned me in Florida to say everybody was talking about a grotesque piece I was said to have written," Mr. Capote recalled. "Starting that day things slowly snowballed. I started getting lots of letters and in the beginning I answered dome but now things have gotten out of hand and I decided something had to be done."

The article was reproduced most recently in the April 3 issue of The Milwaukee Metro News, a tabloid weekly. It carried a front page headline: "John F. Kennedy Still Alive: Truman Capote." The article suggested that President Kennedy had not been shot fatally on Nov. 22, 1963 and that he was being concealed at the Dallas Hospital under heavy guard.

"We are studying this to determine what legal action we may bring against the paper," Mr. Schwartz said as he leafed through a sheath of clippings.

Jerome Borkoski, editor of The Metro News, said in Milwaukee yesterday that he had received a copy of the article from a "source" whom he declined to identify. He said the article had previously appeared in a university publication, though he did not remember its name. The Metro News has a circulation of 18,000.